

Bristol, Oct. 21. 1846-

My dear Sir and Brother,

I commenced a letter to you in June last, which I have just finished; and in it wrote that to some other matters, on which I wish to write to you. Your letter respecting Dr. Sewey's statement here with regard to Dr. Pollen was duly received. I also heard from Dr. Sewey on the same subject shortly afterwards. His letter unfortunately, having been lent to several friends, has been mislaid, - and probably lost, and this prevents my giving you a copy of it which I should otherwise have done. His statement is much the same as that which you inform me he gave ^{and which himself understood} Dr. Pollen, - viz, that having delivered his sentiments, Dr. Pollen did not propose to introduce the subject of Slavery permanently into the pulpit, - under ordinary circumstances, because he did not think it would be useful, or that duty required it at his hands. This is certainly not my impression of the conversation which took place there; because I understood that Doctor Pollen had expressed his willingness to give a pledge that he would so handle anti-slavery topics. But Dr. Sewey did not bring it so an action

against Dr Pollen, nor say one word that was un-
kind, or that breathed any thing but deep respect and
affection for his character and memory. However,
we may have misunderstood what was said, and
must have done so, since it cannot be that Dr
Sewey would malign the sacred character of the
sainted dead; and then take care to make known
extensively that Dr Pollen's beautiful com-
mon remains as perfect as we could wish it to
be. I confess to you that my mind is greatly relieved
by the assurance that he did not condescend to a
pledge which I could not but think unworthy of
him, had it been given. But I do not see any thing
wrong in his saying that he should not be ever
lastingly dwelling on Antislavery topics in the
ordinary services of the Sanctuary. And Pollen
appears to doubt that he even said, this; but may
it not have been said to the Sedgevicks without his
knowledge. I am grieved that she should have
suffered pain from any thing that occurred here,
but it is a great satisfaction to me that I can revive
and honor Dr Pollen's memory as I did before my
conversation with Dr Sewey happened.

I mourn with you over Dr Sewey's "Address", and
see from it what an arduous work abolitionists
must have in your country. But we are very
much

4 have also, just now, on the sugar question, ~~which~~
has caused some of the oldest friends of an Anti
Slavery Society to withdraw from it. You however,
judging from the Liberator, seem to be in a sad state.
Your differences must surely retard the progress of
the cause to which you are so devoted. I have always
deeply sympathized with "Old Organization" as it is called,
and think ~~them~~ ^{its friends} fully justified in the course
which they took. Most disconcerting especially, as far
as I understand it, the conduct of Birney, Stanton,
Leavitt and Co. appears to have been. But alas!
you are now at variance among yourselves -
Pierpont and Bradburn, are opposed to Garrison
and Wendell Phillips, on a question of great
importance, and I grieve to see your strength
wasted in the discussion of questions which,
in my judgment ought not to be mixed up
with the blessed work of setting the slave free - I
do not see what side you take, but shall
hope to hear from you especially on this
matter. I have been very busy with my
Lod friends in getting up some contributions
to the Boston Antislavery Fair - My Box is just ready,
and is it well to ~~send~~ ^{press} a parcel for you. The
things you will perhaps see. They are some

of them very pretty and suitable, and they will
realize a good one - Messrs Carpenter, Messrs Collier
and numerous other friends whom you do not
know, have been very zealous in enabling
me to carry out my wishes, and although I
have urged the work forward, to them must the
credit and thanks be given -

You ask about our Conference this year -
Also my dear Sir, we have had much anxiety
arise on this matter. The meetings for some
present at, gave rise to a very long controversy
in the Synod, and many of our friends who
wish to be quiet, and who dread innovation
and are horrified at the thought of priestcraft,
began to think that we contemplated the
revival, in a small way, of Church authority,
and were alarmed at the ^{appal consequences} ~~shadowy prospects~~ which
might follow. Seriously, there was much
jealousy excited by our Conference; and it was
determined, if possible, to prevent a similar
meeting this year - I send you a series of
resolutions which we passed at Newton,
and it remains to be seen whether any thing
can be done to help our scattered churches
into

3/ an organized body, which will act with energy for the
common good. There is a great dislike among the Unitar-
ians of England generally, to any thing which bears
the most distant resemblance to interference with the in-
dependence of their separate churches, and although
nothing of this sort was intended or desired, the impres-
sion has gone abroad, and we shall have much difficulty
in getting it out. We shall, however, make another
attempt, and if we do not succeed, we must wait for
better times, or leave the work to be done by a new genera-
tion.

I am sorry to inform you that there is some difficulty
in obtaining adequate support for my proposed volume
of the Aston's sermons. Whether it will be brought out
now, I can hardly venture to predict. If you can get
subscriptions for me I shall be glad. I enclose a few
prospectuses. (None received)

We have seen no American friend this year,
I think, which is rather unusual. You will be glad
to hear that Miss Martineau is fast recovering, and that we
may hope for more work from her yet.

My kind regards to your brother, when you see
him. Write to me soon, and let me know when I may
that will be more punctual correspondence, as
well as that I am,

All friends here are well,
and the inquiry for you -

Your faithful friend & brother,
William James

Rev J. J. May
Linn.